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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR LOW-NOISE, HIGHLY-LINEAR RECEIVER FRONT-END**

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H04B 1/26 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **455/326; 455/341**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 455/73,
455/130, 232.1, 254, 280, 323, 324, 326,
455/330, 333, 339, 340, 341

See application file for complete search history.

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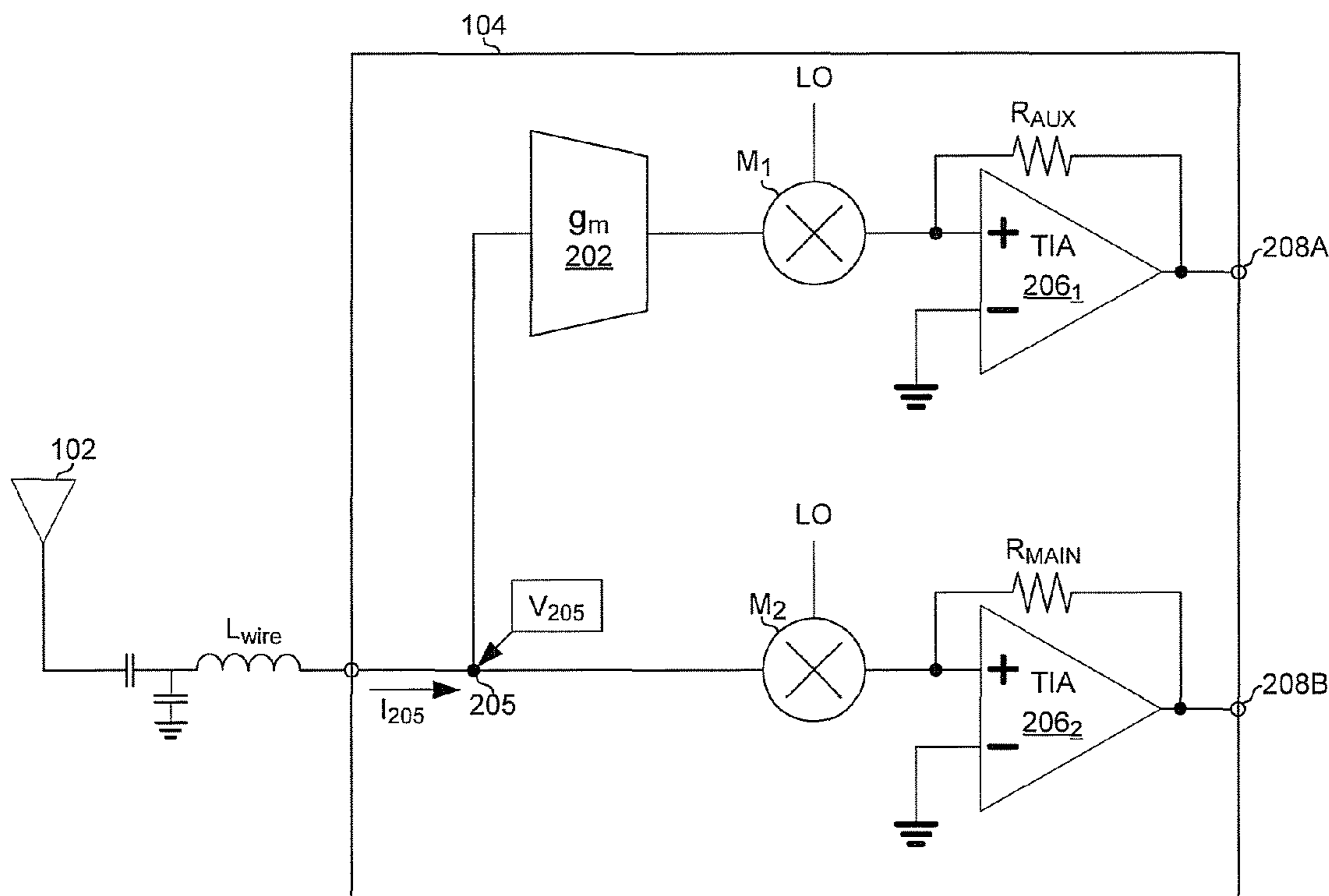
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Aspects of a method and system for a low-noise, highly-linear receiver front-end are provided. In this regard, a received signal may be processed via one or more transconductances, one or more transimpedance amplifiers (TIAs), and one or more mixers to generate a first baseband signal corresponding to a voltage at a node of the receiver, and a second baseband signal corresponding to a current at the node of the receiver. The first signal and the second signal may be processed to recover information from the received signal. The first signal may be generated via a first one or more signal paths of the receiver and the second signal may be generated via a second one or more signal paths of the receiver.

20 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



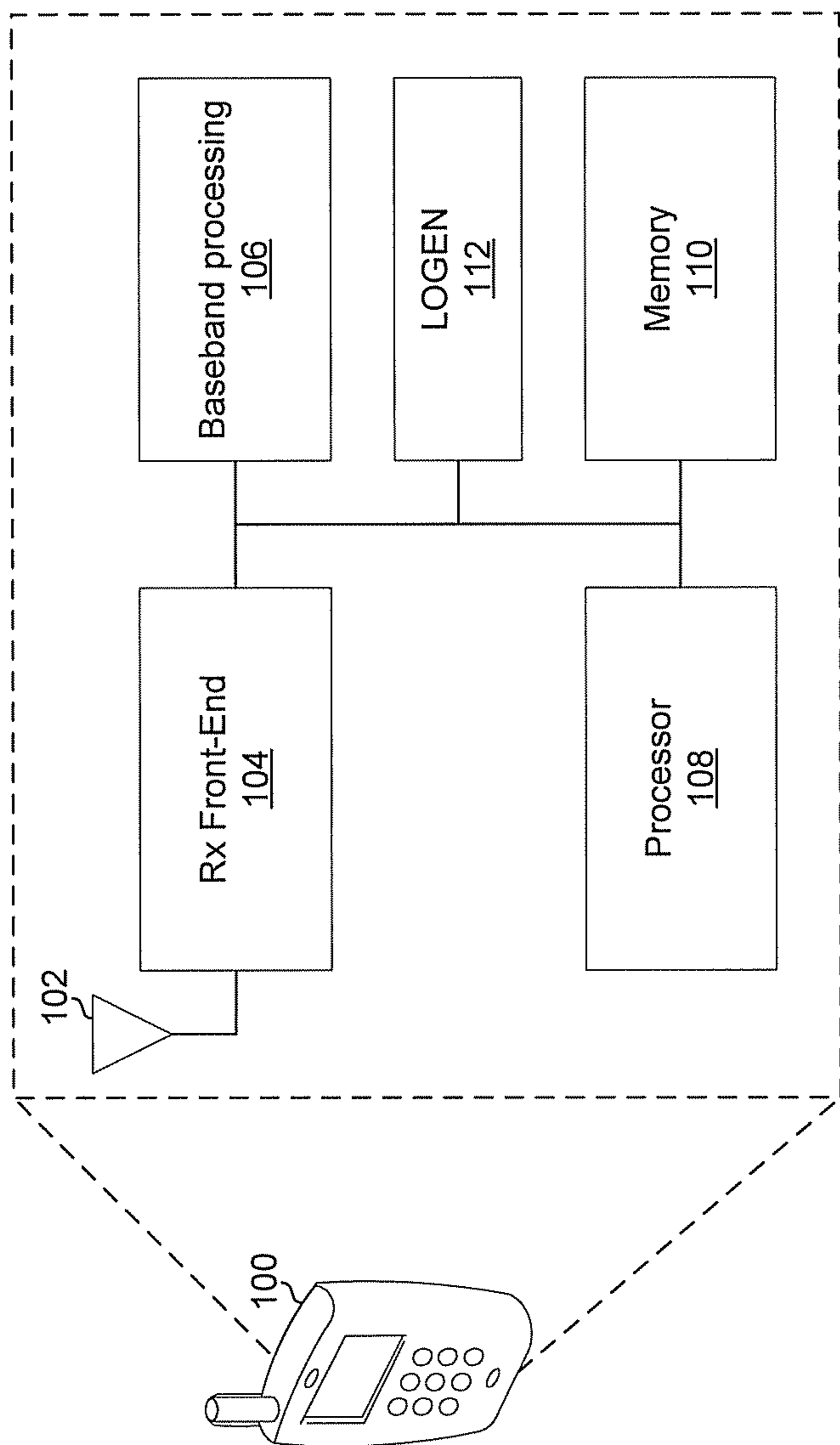


FIG. 1

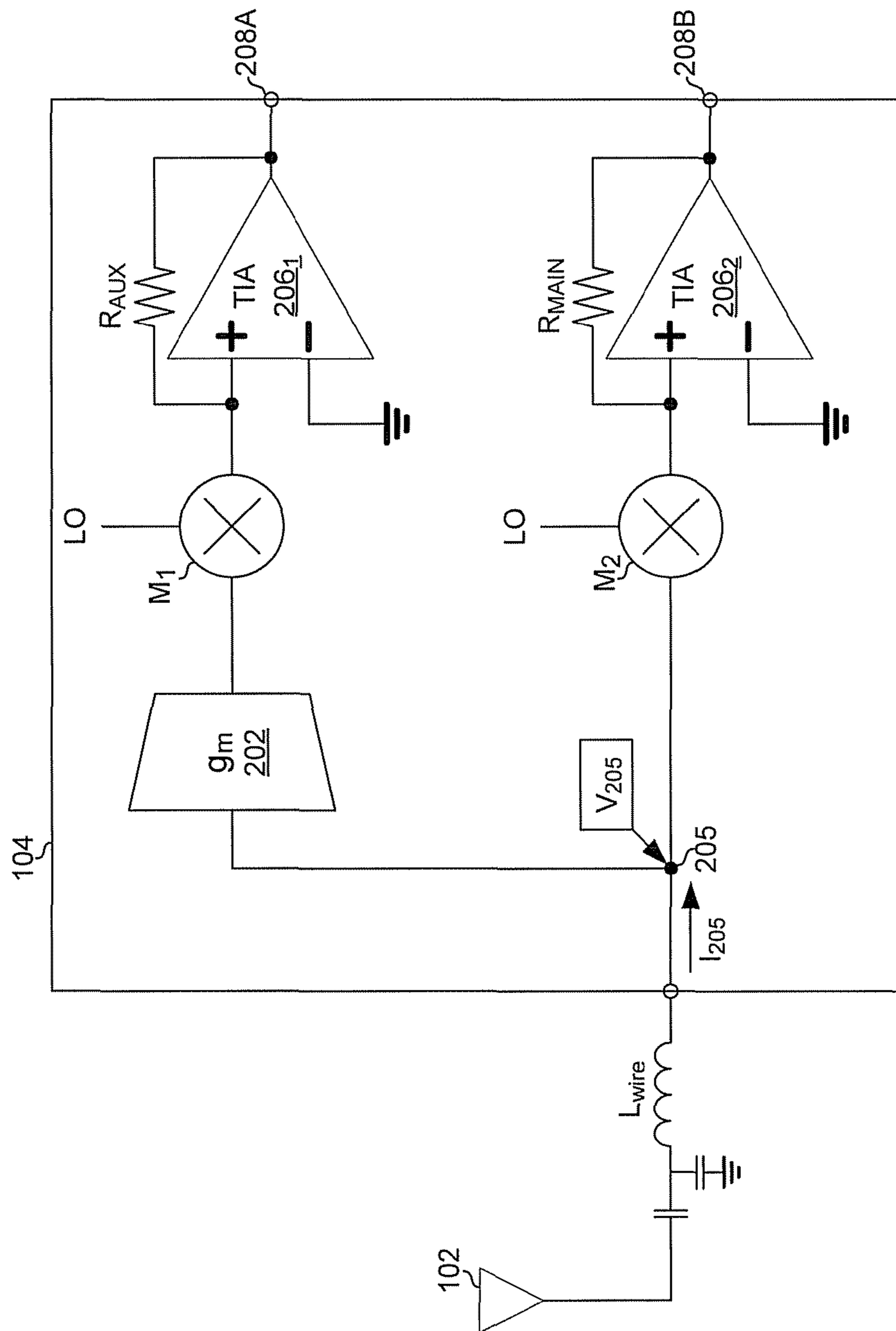


FIG. 2

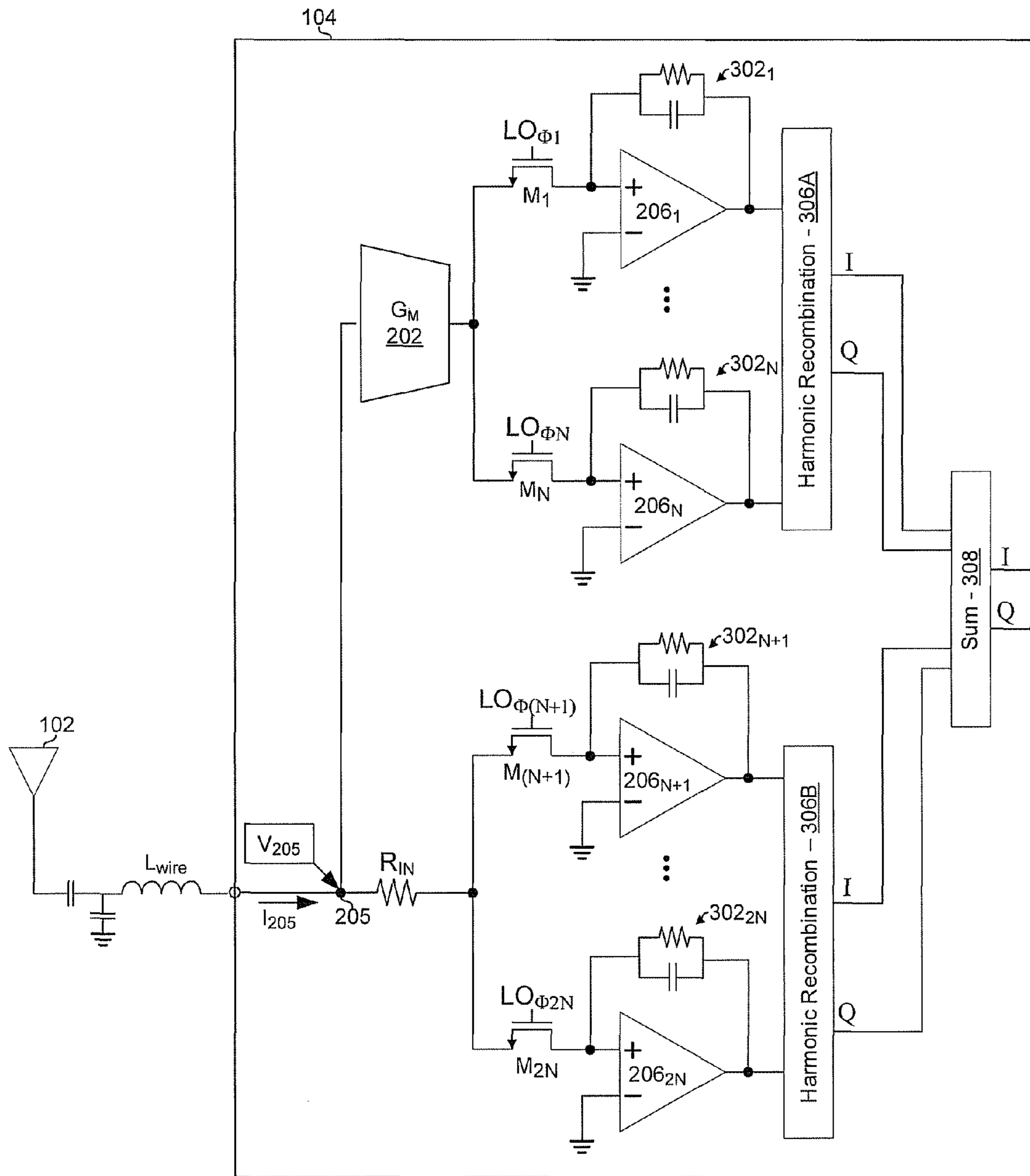


FIG. 3A

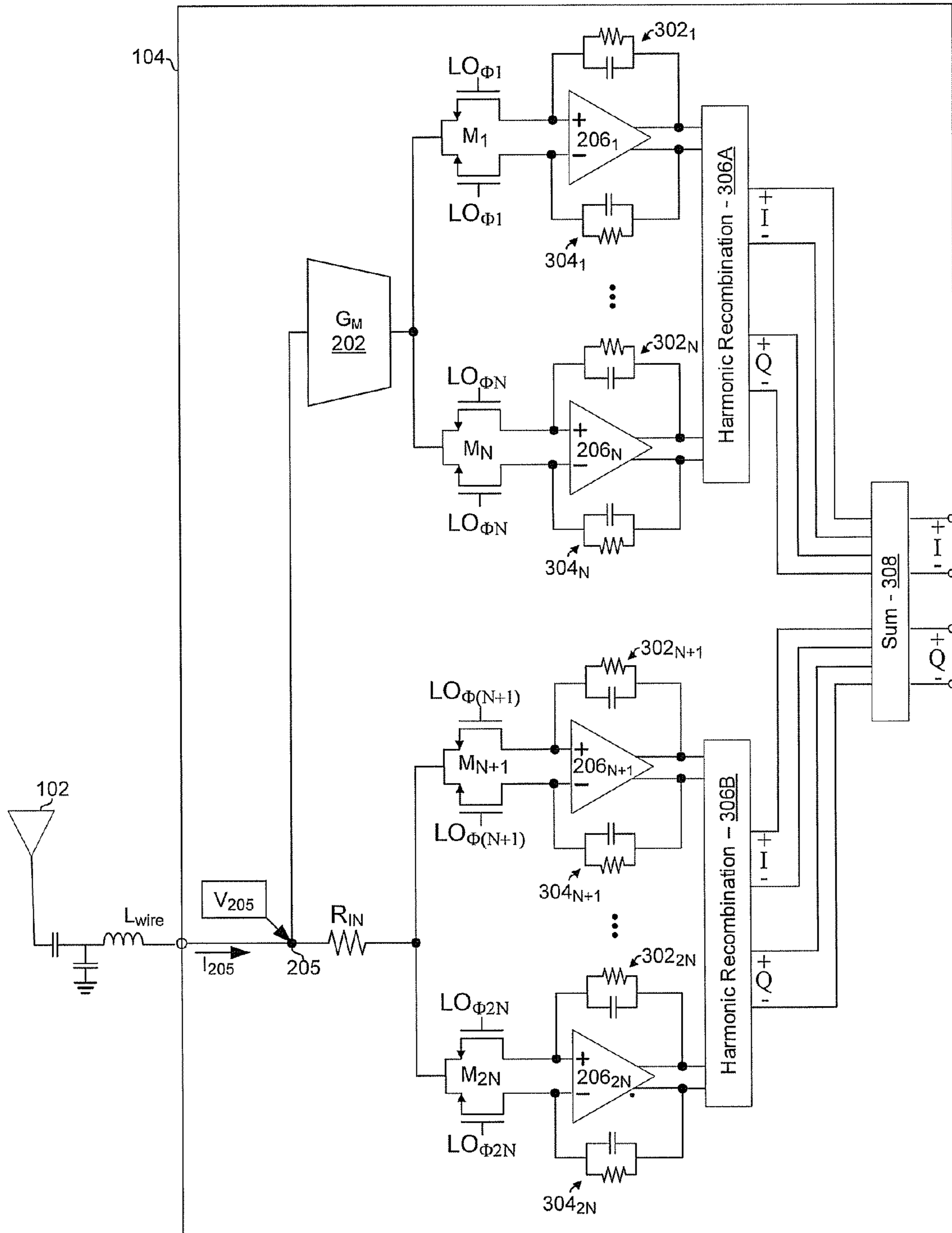


FIG. 3B

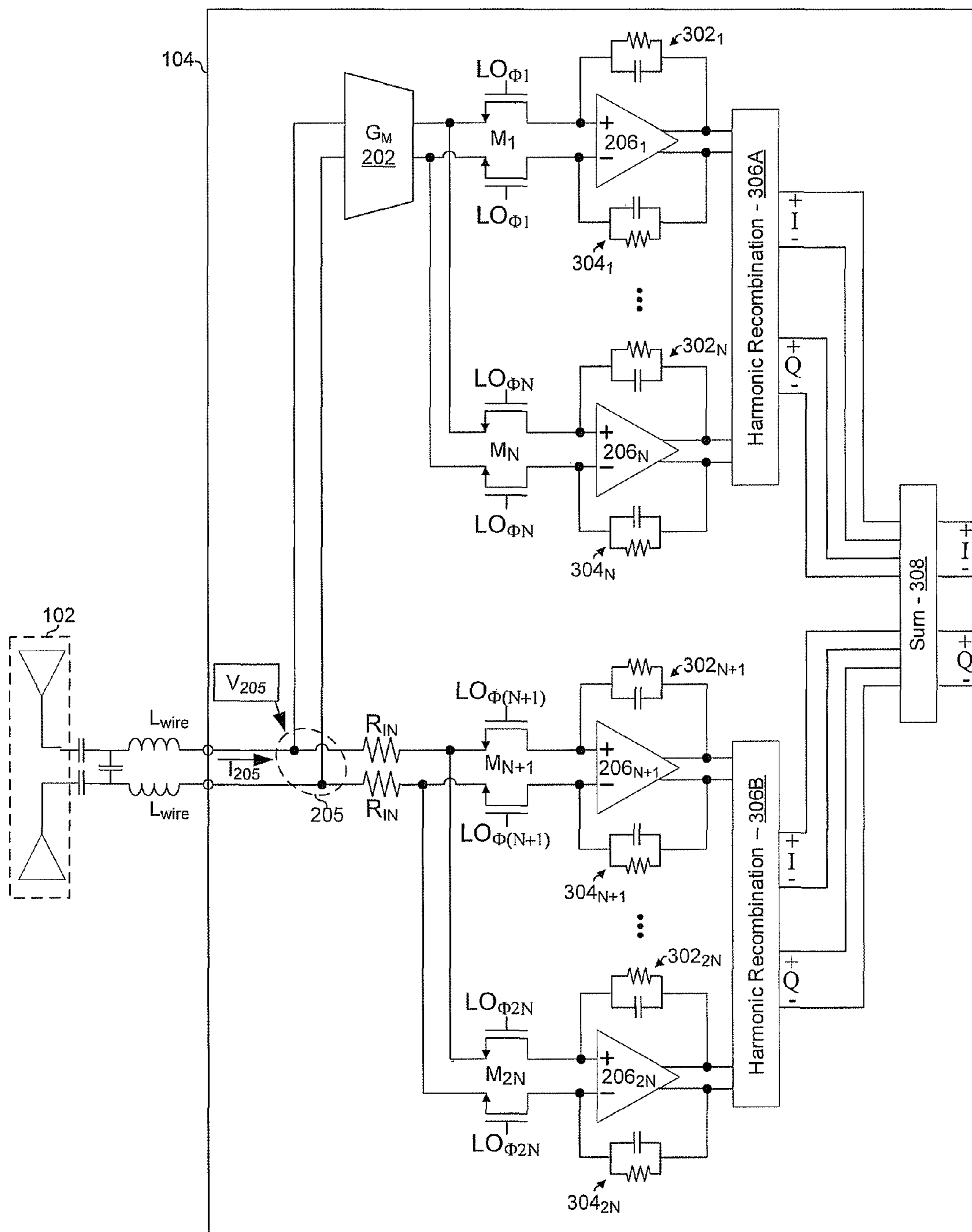


FIG. 3C

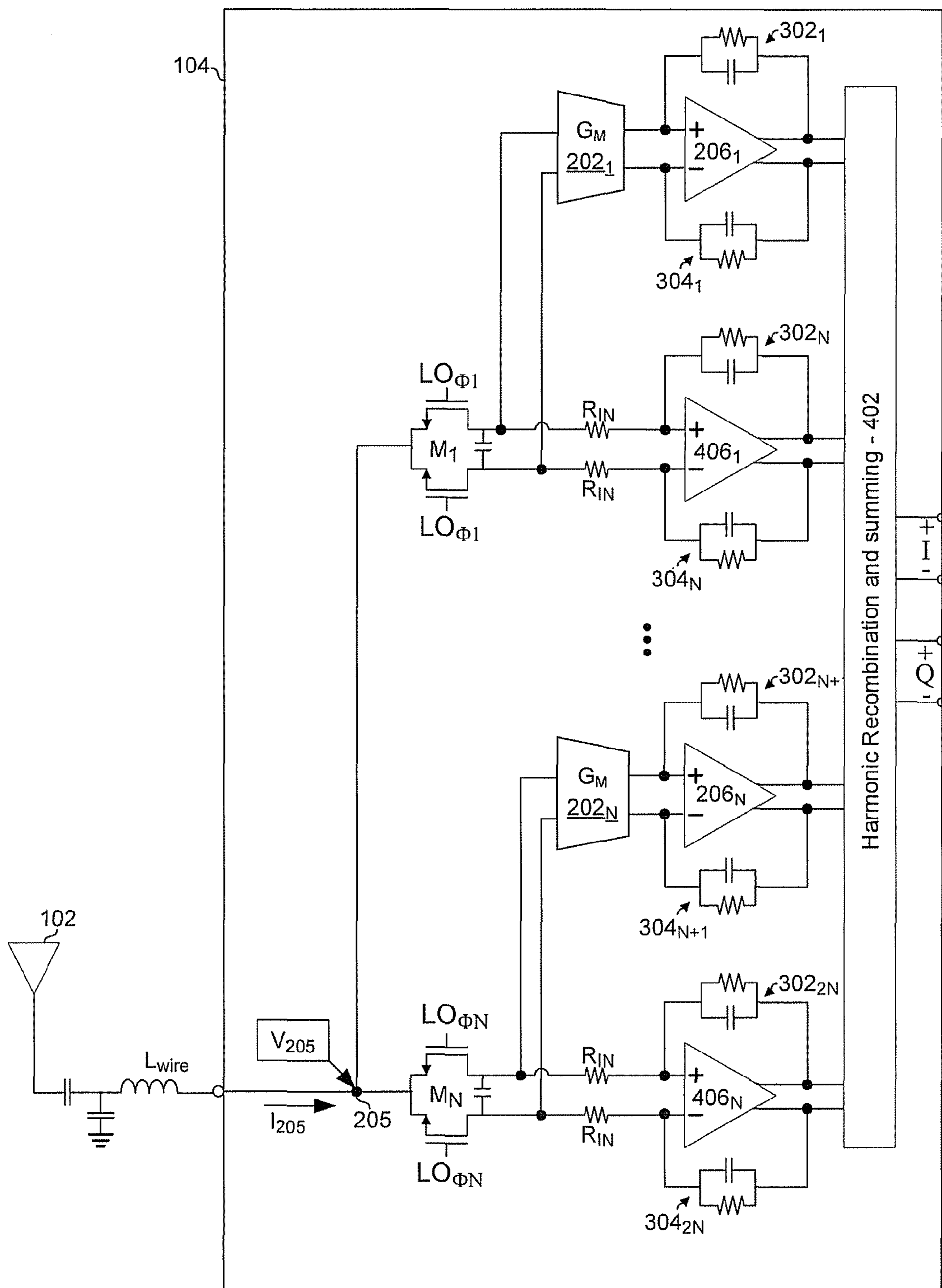


FIG. 4

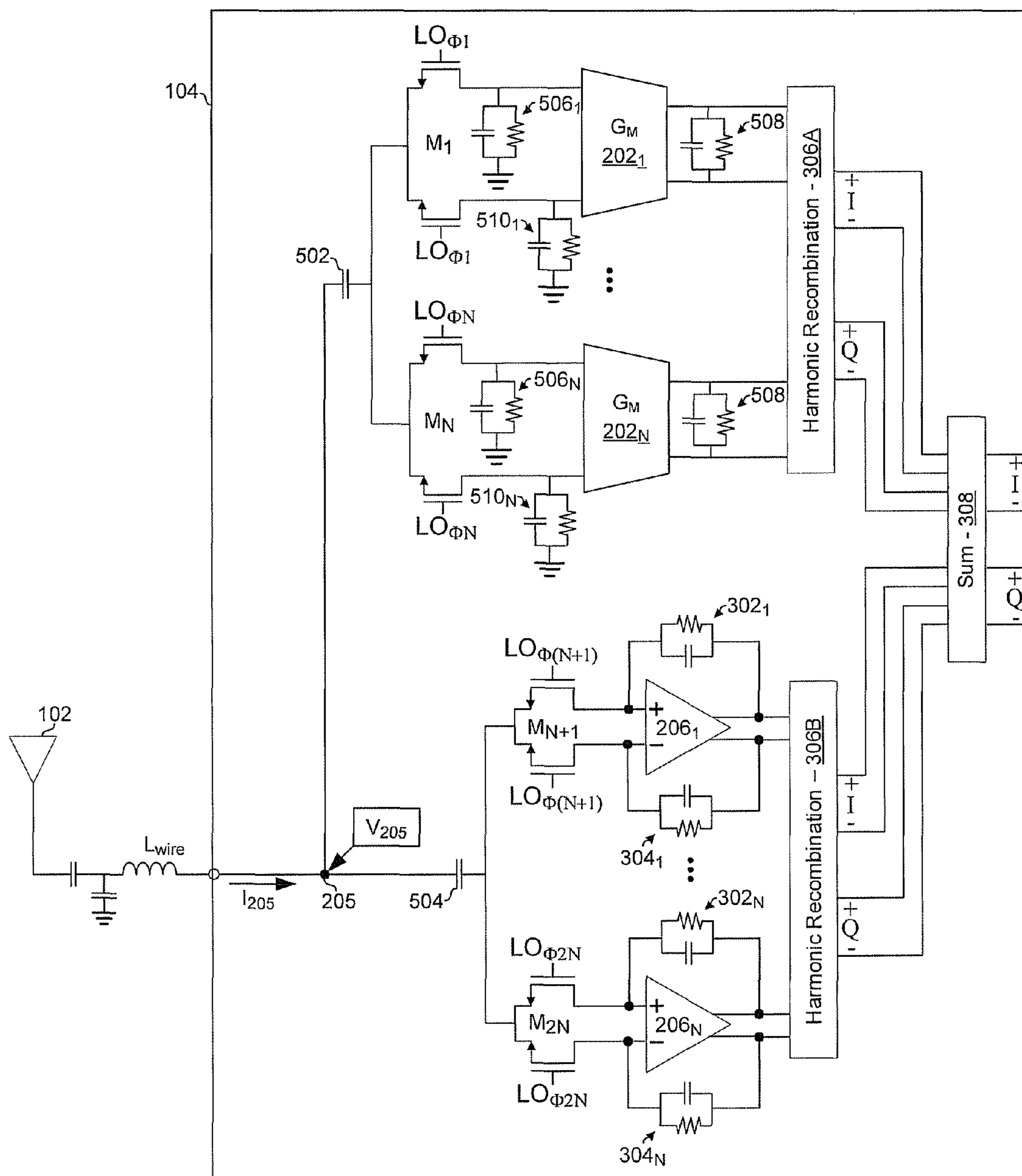


FIG. 5

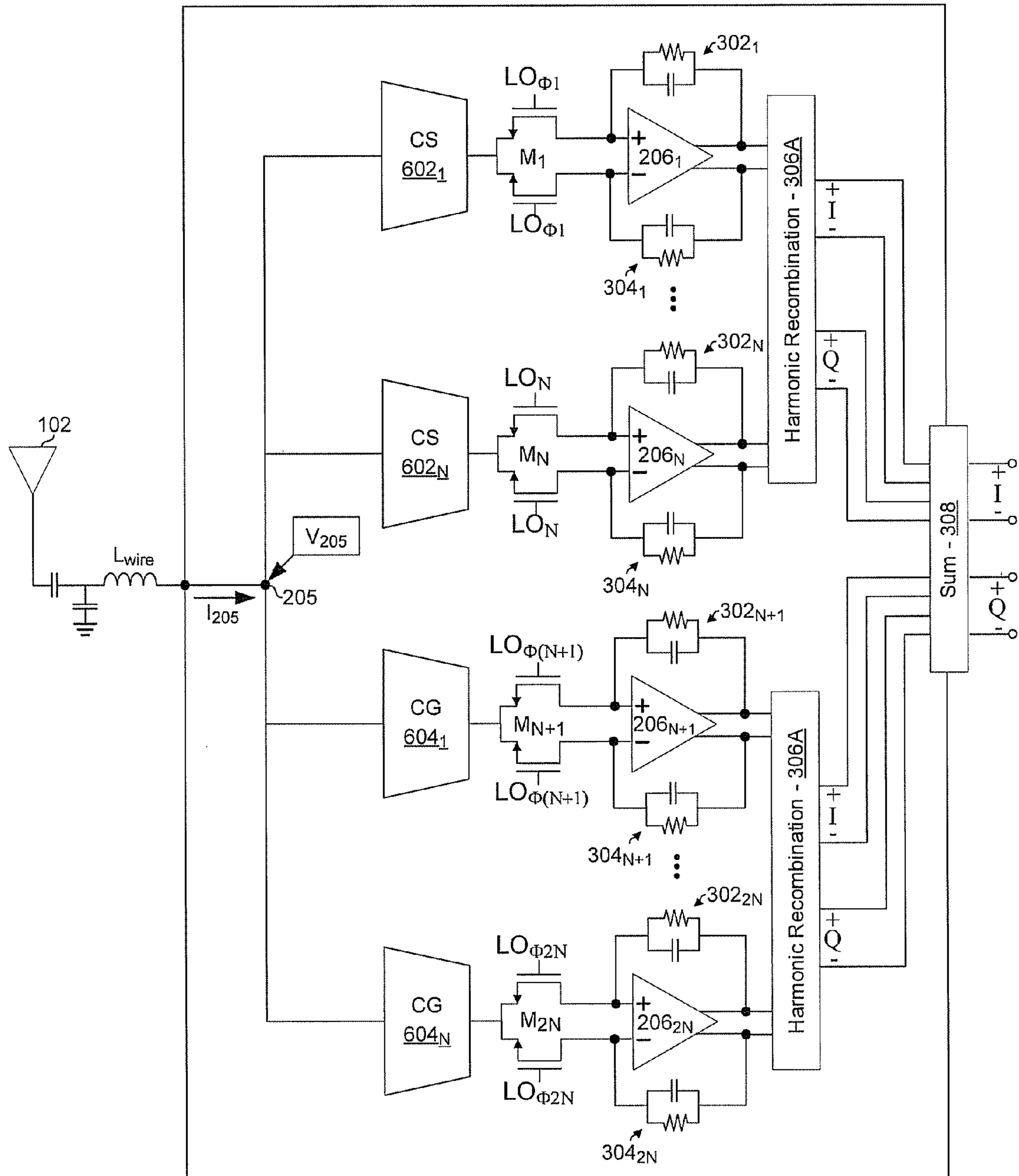


FIG. 6A

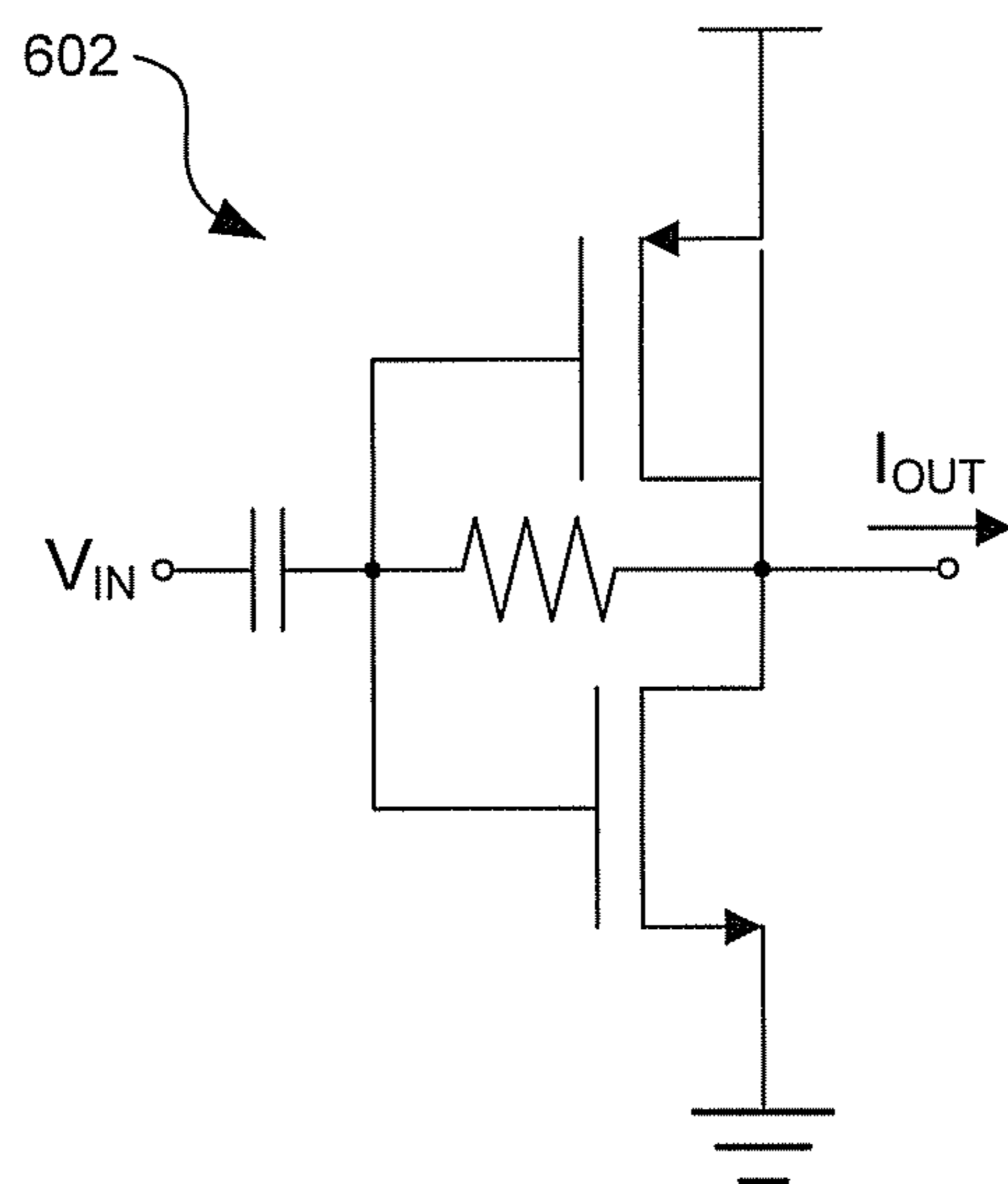


FIG. 6B

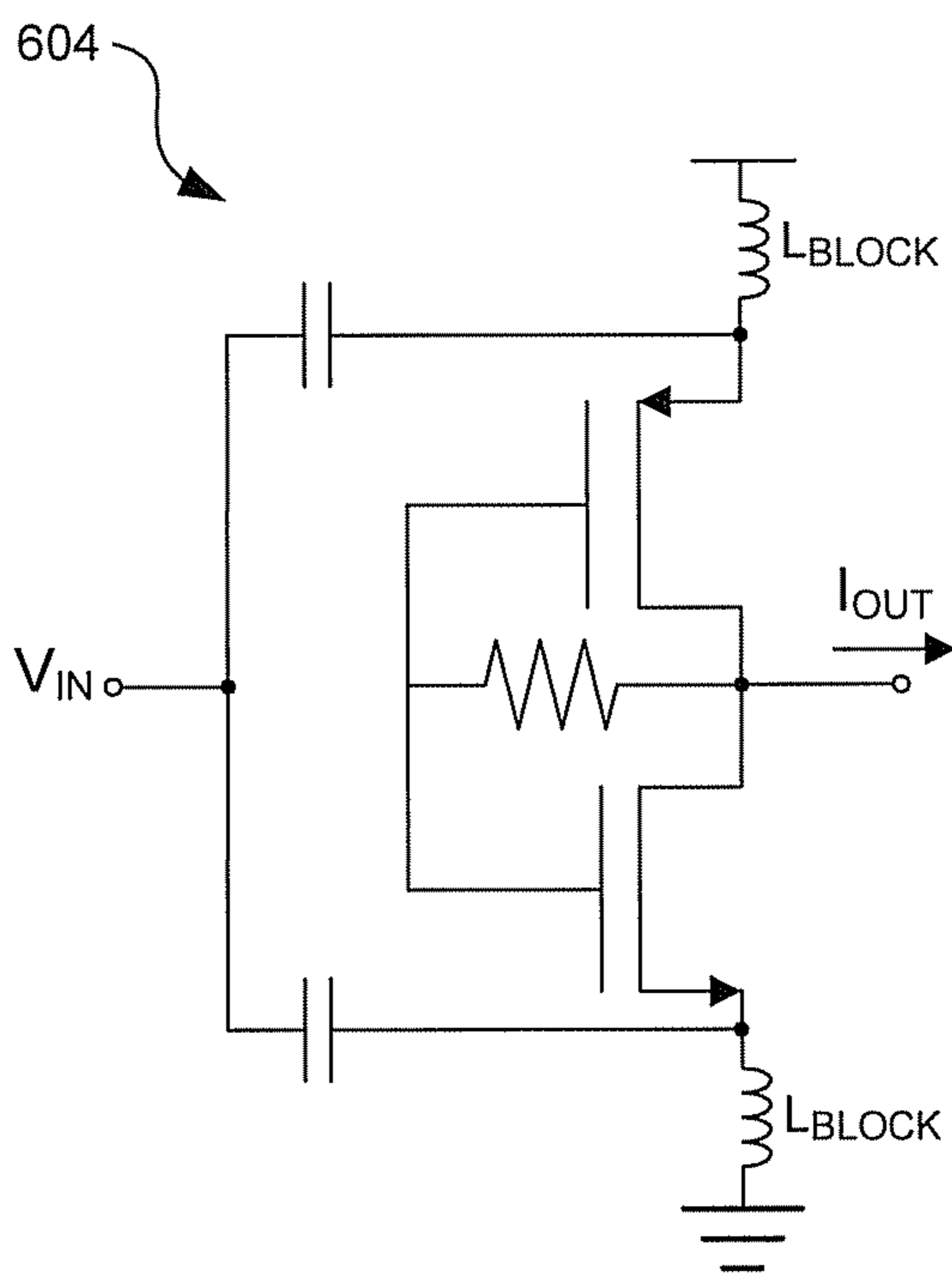


FIG. 6C

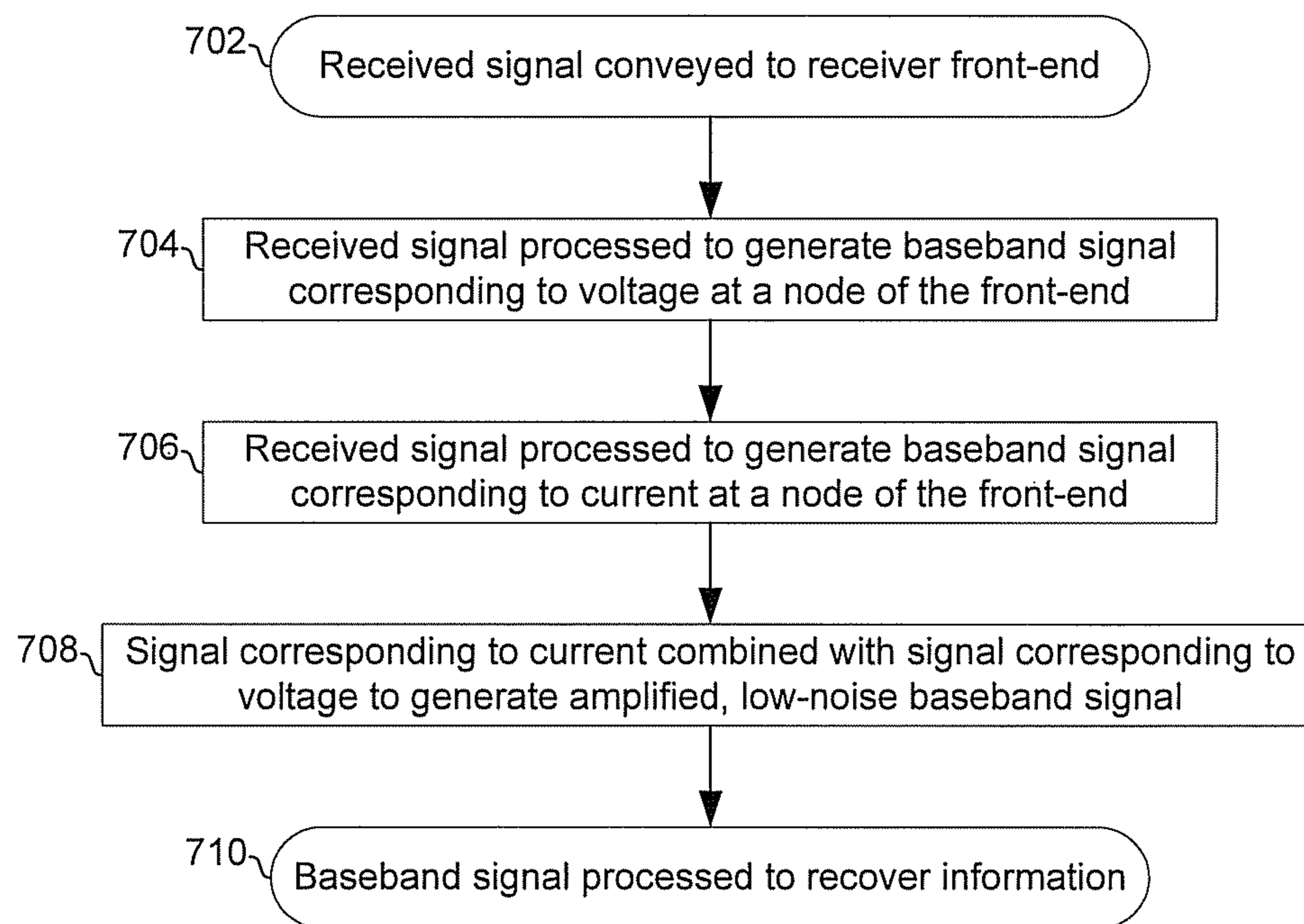


FIG. 7

1**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR LOW-NOISE,
HIGHLY-LINEAR RECEIVER FRONT-END**

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Certain embodiments of the invention relate to wireless communications. More specifically, certain embodiments of the invention relate to a method and system for low-noise, highly-linear receiver front-end.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

As the number of wireless standards and the range of frequencies of wireless communications continue to increase, there is increasing need for communication receivers that are capable of handling multiple wireless standards spanning a wide range of frequencies. Also, as the number of wireless devices and the amount of wireless communications taking place increase, these communication receivers have to function satisfactorily in the presence of large amounts of noise and interference.

Further limitations and disadvantages of conventional and traditional approaches will become apparent to one of skill in the art, through comparison of such systems with some aspects of the present invention as set forth in the remainder of the present application with reference to the drawings.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A system and/or method is provided for a low-noise, highly-linear receiver front-end, substantially as illustrated by and/or described in connection with at least one of the figures, as set forth more completely in the claims.

These and other advantages, aspects and novel features of the present invention, as well as details of an illustrated embodiment thereof, will be more fully understood from the following description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary wireless communication device, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a high-level block diagram of an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3A is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3B is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3C is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 6A is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 6B is a diagram illustrating an exemplary transconductance, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

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FIG. 6C is a diagram illustrating exemplary transconductances, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 7 is a flow chart illustrating exemplary operation of a low-noise, highly-linear receiver front-end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Certain embodiments of the invention may be found in a method and system for low-noise, highly-linear receiver front-end. In various embodiments of the invention, a received signal may be processed via one or more transconductances, one or more transimpedance amplifiers (TIAs), and one or more mixers to generate a first baseband signal corresponding to a voltage at a node of the receiver, and a second baseband signal corresponding to a current at the node of the receiver. The first signal and the second signal may be processed to recover information from the received signal. The first signal may be generated via a first signal path of the receiver and the second signal may be generated via a second signal path of the receiver.

The first signal path may comprise the one or more transconductances, at least a portion of the one or more mixers, and at least a portion of the one or more TIAs. The second signal path may comprise at least a portion of the one or more mixers and at least a portion of the one or more TIAs. The received signal at the node may be input to the one or more transconductances. An output of the one or more transconductances may be input to the portion of the one or more mixers in the first signal path. An output of each of the at least a portion of the one or more mixers of the first signal path may be input to the portion of the one or more transimpedance amplifiers in the first signal path. The received signal at the node of the receiver may be input to the portion of the one or more mixers in the second signal path. An output of each of the portion of the one or more mixers in the second signal path may be input to the portion of the one or more transimpedance amplifiers in the second signal path.

The first signal path may comprise a first capacitor, at least a portion of the one or more mixers and the one or more transconductances. The second signal path may comprise a second capacitor, at least a portion of the one or more mixers, and the one or more TIAs. The received signal at the node of the receiver may be coupled to a first terminal of the first capacitor. A second terminal of the first capacitor may be coupled to an input of the portion of the one or more mixers in the first signal path. An output of each of the portion of the one or more mixers in the first signal path may be input to the one or more transconductances. The received signal at the node of the receiver may be coupled to a first terminal of the second capacitor. A second terminal of the second capacitor may be coupled to an input of the portion of the one or more mixers in the second signal path. An output of each of the portion of the one or more mixers in the second signal path may be input to the one or more TIAs.

The first signal path may comprise a first portion of the one or more transconductances, a first portion of the one or more mixers, and a first portion of the one or more TIAs. The second signal path may comprise a second portion of the one or more transconductances, a second portion of the one or more mixers, and a second portion of the one or more TIAs. An architecture of the first portion of the one or more transconductances may be different than an architecture of the second portion of the one or more transconductances. The received signal at the node of the receiver may be input to each of the one or more transconductances. An output of each of

the transconductances may be input to the one or more mixers. An output of each of the one or more mixers may be input to the one or more TIAs.

The received signal at the node may be input to the one or more mixers. An output of each of the one or more mixers may be input to the one or more transconductances. An output of each of the one or more mixers may be input to a first portion of the one or more TIAs. An output of each of the transconductances may be input to a second portion of the one or more TIAs.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary wireless communication device, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. 1, the wireless communication device 100 may comprise an antenna 102, a receiver front-end 104, a baseband processing module 106, a processor 108, a memory 110, and a local oscillator generator 112. In various embodiments of the invention, one or more of the blocks represented in FIG. 1 may be integrated on one or more semiconductor substrates. For example, the blocks 104-112 may be realized in a single system on chip, or may be realized in a multi-chip chipset.

The antenna 102 may be suitable for transmitting and/or receiving wireless signals over a wide range of frequencies. Although a single antenna 102 is illustrated, the invention is not so limited.

The receiver front-end 104 may comprise suitable logic circuitry and/or code that may be operable to receive and process signals from the antenna 102. The receiver front end 104 may, for example, be operable to amplify and/or down-convert received wireless signals. In various embodiments of the invention, the receiver front-end 104 may be operable to cancel noise in received signals and may be linear over a wide range of frequencies. In this manner, the front-end 104 may be suitable for receiving signals in accordance with a variety of wireless standards. Exemplary standards which the front-end 104 may be suitable for receiving include Wi-Fi, WiMAX, Bluetooth, and various cellular standards. In various embodiments of the invention, the front-end may not require any SAW filters and few or no off-chip discrete components such as large capacitors and inductors.

The baseband processing module 106 may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces, and/or code that may be operable to perform processing of baseband signals. The baseband processing module 106 may, for example, analyze received signals and generate control and/or feedback signals for configuring various components of the wireless communication device 100 such as the front-end. The baseband processing module 106 may be operable to encode, decode, transcode, modulate, demodulate, encrypt, decrypt, scramble, descramble, and/or otherwise process data in accordance with one or more wireless standards.

The processor 108 may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that may enable processing data and/or controlling operations of the wireless communication device 100. In this regard, the processor 108 may be enabled to provide control signals to various other portions of the wireless communication device 100. The processor 108 may also control transfers of data between various portions of the wireless communication device 100. Additionally, the processor 108 may enable implementation of an operating system or otherwise execute code to manage operations of the wireless communication device 100.

The memory 110 may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that may enable storage of various types of information such as received data, generated data, code, and/or configuration information. The memory 110 may comprise, for example, RAM, ROM, flash, and/or magnetic storage. In

various embodiment of the invention, information stored in the memory 110 may be utilized for configuring the front-end 104 and/or the baseband processing module 106.

The local oscillator generator (LOGEN) 112 may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces, and/or code that may be operable to generate one or more oscillating signals of one or more frequencies. The LOGEN 112 may be operable to generate digital and/or analog signals. In this manner, the LOGEN 112 may be operable to generate one or more clock signals and/or sinusoidal signals. Characteristics of the oscillating signals such as the frequency and duty cycle may be determined based on one or more control signals from, for example, the processor 108 and/or the baseband processing module 106.

In operation, the processor 108 may configure the various components of the wireless communication device 100 based on a wireless standard according to which it is desired to receive signals. Wireless signals may be received via the antenna 102 and amplified and down-converted by the front-end 104. The baseband processing module 106 may perform noise estimation and/or noise cancellation, decoding, and/or demodulation of the baseband signals. In this manner, information in the received signal may be recovered and utilized appropriately. For example, the information may be audio and/or video to be presented to a user of the wireless communication device, data to be stored to the memory 110, and/or information affecting and/or enabling operation of the wireless communication device 100.

FIG. 2 is a high-level block diagram of an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. 2, the exemplary front-end 104 comprises a transconductance 202, mixers M_1 and M_2 , transimpedance amplifiers 206₁ and 206₂, Resistors R_{AUX} and R_{MAIN} , and a harmonic recombination module 208.

The transconductance 202 may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces, and/or code that may be operable to output a current that is proportional to a voltage input to the transconductance 202. The factor of proportionality may be g_m .

The mixers M_1 and M_2 may each comprise suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that may enable generation of intermodulation products resulting from mixing the received signal at node 205 with one or more LO signals generated by LOGEN 112 (FIG. 1).

The transimpedance amplifier (TIA) 206₁ may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces, and/or code that may be operable to output a voltage that is proportional to a current input to the TIA 206₁. Similarly, the TIA 206₂ may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces, and/or code that may be operable to output a voltage that is proportional to a current input to the TIA 206₂.

In operation, a signal may be received via the antenna 102 and conveyed to the node 205 via a signal trace and/or wire represented as an inductance L_{wire} . The received signal at node 205 may be input to a first signal path comprising the transconductance 202, the mixer M_1 , and the TIA 206₁, and to a second signal path comprising the mixer M_2 and the TIA 206₂. The first signal path may generate, at port 208A, a baseband signal corresponding to a voltage, V_{205} , at the node 205. The second signal path may generate, at port 208B, a baseband signal corresponding to a current, I_{205} , at the node 205. The signal at port 208A and 208B may be processed by the baseband processing module 106 (FIG. 1) to suppress and/or cancel noise and recover information from the received signal.

In an embodiment of the invention, one or more of R_{AUX} , R_{MAIN} , and GM may be preconfigured and/or dynamically

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configured during operation of the front-end **104** to maintain, within a tolerance, the following relationship:

$$g_M \cdot R_{AUX} = \frac{R_{MAIN}}{R_S}$$

Maintaining this relationship may minimize the noise figure of the front-end **104**, if g_M , R_{AUX} , and R_{MAIN} are sufficiently large.

FIG. **3A** is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. **3A**, the wireless communication device **104** may comprise the transconductance **202**, a plurality of mixers M_1 - M_{2N} , TIAs **206**₁-**206**_{2N}, feedback circuits **302**₁-**302**_{2N}, a resistor R_{IN} , harmonic recombination modules **306A** and **306B**, and a summer **308**, where N may be any integer greater than or equal to 1. In various embodiments of the invention, N may be equal, for example, to 2, 4, or 8.

The transconductance **202** may be as described with respect to FIG. **2**. Each of the TIAs **206**₁-**206**_{2N} may be the same as the TIAs **206**₁ and **206**₂ described above with respect to FIG. **2**. Each of the feedback circuits **302**₁-**302**_{2N} may comprise one or more components, a capacitor and a resistor, for example, for setting a gain and/or frequency response of the corresponding one of the TIAs **206**₁-**206**_{2N}.

In an embodiment of the invention, the mixers M_1 - M_{2N} may each be a passive mixer and may comprise, for example, a single NMOS transistor. In an embodiment of the invention, a plurality, 2N, of LO signals, each being phase shifted with respect to the others, may be generated by the LOGEN **112** (FIG. **1**). Each of the mixers may receive one the 2N LO signals. For example, for N=4, 8 LO signals corresponding to 8 phases may be generated and each may have a 12.5% duty-cycle such that only one of the 8 LO signals is in a logic-high state at any given time instant.

The harmonic recombination module **306A** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces, and/or code that may be operable to combine the N signals, corresponding to N phases, from the TIAs **206**₁-**206**_N to generate a pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals corresponding to a voltage at node **205**. Similarly, the harmonic recombination module **306B** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces, and/or code that may be operable to combine the N signals, corresponding to N phases, from the TIAs **206**_{N+1}-**206**_{2N} to generate a pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals corresponding to a current at node **205**.

The summer **308** may comprise suitable logic, circuitry, interfaces, and/or code that may be operable to combine, via, for example, addition, subtraction, and/or weighted addition or subtraction, two or more of the signals from the harmonic recombination modules **306A** and **306B**. For example, the in-phase signal from module **306A** may be combined with the in-phase signal from module **306B** to output an in-phase baseband signal, and the quadrature-phase signal from module **306A** may be combined with the quadrature-phase signal from module **306B** to output a quadrature-phase baseband signal.

The resistor R_{IN} may be variable and/or optionally populated. In this regard, the resistor R_{IN} may be populated and/or its resistance may be controlled based on predetermined values, and/or dynamically during operation of the front-end **104**, to adjust the linearity of the front-end **104**.

In operation, a signal may be received via the antenna **102** and conveyed to the node **205** via a signal trace and/or wire represented as an inductance L_{wire} . The received signal at

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node **205** may be processed via a first signal path comprising the mixers M_1 - M_N , and TIAs **206**₁-**206**_N. Each of mixers M_1 - M_N may mix the output of the transconductance **202** with one of LO signals LO_{Φ_1} - LO_{Φ_N} to downconvert the received signal to baseband. The baseband output of each the mixers M_1 - M_N may be input to a corresponding one of TIAs **206**₁-**206**_N. Each of the TIAs **206**₁-**206**_N may convert the current output of a corresponding one of the mixers M_1 - M_N to a corresponding voltage. There may be a gain associated with the current-to-voltage conversion. The harmonic recombination module **306A** may combine the N signals from the TIAs **206**₁-**206**_N to generate a pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals corresponding to a voltage on node **205**.

The received signal at node **205** may also be processed via a second signal path comprising the mixers M_{N+1} - M_{2N} , and the TIAs **206**_{N+1}-**206**_{2N}. Each of mixers M_{N+1} - M_{2N} may mix the signal at node **205** with one of LO signals $LO_{\Phi(N+1)}$ - $LO_{\Phi 2N}$ to downconvert the received signal to baseband. The baseband output of each the mixers M_{N+1} - M_{2N} may be input to a corresponding one of the TIAs **206**_{N+1}-**206**_{2N}. Each of the TIAs **206**_{N+1}-**206**_{2N} may convert the current output of a corresponding one of the mixers M_{N+1} - M_{2N} to a corresponding voltage. There may be a gain associated with the current-to-voltage conversion. The harmonic recombination module **306B** may combine the N signals from the TIAs **206**_{N+1}-**206**_{2N} to generate a pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals corresponding to a current on node **205**.

The summer **308** may combine the pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals output by the module **306A** and the pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals from module **306B** to generate a single pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals. The output of summer **308** may be processed by baseband processing module **106** to recover information in the received signal.

FIG. **3B** is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The exemplary wireless communication device **104** shown in FIG. **3B** is substantially similar to the one depicted in FIG. **3A** with the exception that differential signaling is utilized downstream of the mixers M_1 - M_{2N} .

FIG. **3C** is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The exemplary wireless communication device **104** shown in FIG. **3C** is substantially similar to the one depicted in FIG. **3A** with the exception that the front-end **104** in FIG. **3C** is fully differential.

FIG. **4** is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary receiver front-end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. **4**, the wireless communication device **104** may comprise a plurality of transconductances **202**₁-**202**_N, a plurality of mixers M_1 - M_N , a plurality of TIAs **206**₁-**206**_N and **406**₁-**406**_N, feedback circuits **302**₁-**302**_{2N} and **304**₁-**304**_{2N}, resistors R_{IN} , harmonic recombination and summing module **502**, where N may be any integer greater than or equal to 1. In various embodiments of the invention, N may be equal to, for example, 2, 4, or 8.

The transconductances **202**₁-**202**_N may each be the same as the transconductance **202** described with respect to FIG. **2**. Each of the TIAs **206**₁-**206**_N and **406**₁-**406**_N may be the same as the TIAs **206**₁ and **206**₂ described above with respect to FIG. **2**. Each of the feedback circuits **302**₁-**302**_{2N} and **304**₁-**304**_{2N} may comprise one or more components, a capacitor and a resistor, for example, for setting a gain and/or frequency response of the corresponding one of the TIAs **206**₁-**206**_N and **406**₁-**406**_N. The harmonic recombination and summing module **502** may perform the functions of the modules **306A**,

306B, and 308 described above with respect to FIG. 3A. The resistors R_{IN} may be as described above with respect to FIG. 3A.

In operation, a signal may be received via the antenna 102 and conveyed to the node 205 via a signal trace and/or wire represented as an inductance L_{wire} . The received signal at node 205 may be conveyed to each of mixers M_1 - M_N . Each of the mixers M_1 - M_N may mix the signal at node 205 with one of LO signals $LO_{\Phi 1}$ - $LO_{\Phi N}$ to generate a baseband signal. The baseband signal output by each of the mixers M_1 - M_N may be input to one of transconductances 202₁-202_N. The output of each of the transconductances 202₁-202_N may be input to one of the TIAs 206₁-206_N. The output of the TIAs 206₁-206_N may be combined by the module 502 to generate a first pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals corresponding to a voltage at node 205.

The baseband signal output by each of the mixers M_1 - M_N may be input to one of the TIAs 406₁-406_N. The signals input to TIAs 406₁-406_N may each pass through resistors R_{IN} in instances that resistors R_{IN} are present. The output of the TIA's 406₁-406_N may be combined by the module 502 to generate a second pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals corresponding to the current at node 205.

The module 502 may combine the first pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals and the second pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals to generate a single pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals. The output of module 502 may be processed by baseband processing module 106 to recover information in the received signal.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. 5, the wireless communication device 104 may comprise a plurality of transconductances 202₁-202_N; filtering circuits 506₁-506_N, 508₁-508_N, and 510₁-510_N; a plurality of mixers M_1 - M_{2N} ; a plurality of TIAs 206₁-206_N; feedback circuits 302₁-302_N and 304₁-304_N; capacitors 502 and 504; harmonic recombination modules 306A and 306B; and summer 308, where N may be any integer greater than or equal to 1. In various embodiments of the invention, N may be equal to, for example, 2, 4, or 8.

The transconductances 202₁-202_N may each be the same as the transconductance 202 described with respect to FIG. 2. Each of the TIAs 206₁-206_N may be the same as the TIAs 206₁ and 206₂ described above with respect to FIG. 2. Each of the feedback circuits 302₁-302_N and 304₁-304_N may be as described above with respect to FIG. 4. Each of the modules 306A and 306B may be as described above with respect to FIG. 3A. The summer 308 may be as described above with respect to FIG. 3A. The filtering circuits 506₁-506_N, 508₁-508_N, and 510₁-510_N may each comprise, for example, a resistor and a capacitor to filter undesired frequencies and/or set a frequency response of the front-end 104.

In operation, a signal may be received via the antenna 102 and conveyed to the node 205 via a signal trace and/or wire represented as an inductance L_{wire} . The received signal at node 205 may be conveyed to each of mixers M_1 - M_{2N} via one of capacitors 502 and 504. Each of the mixers M_1 - M_{2N} may mix the received RF signal with one of LO signals $LO_{\Phi 1}$ - $LO_{\Phi N}$ to generate a corresponding baseband signal. The baseband signal output by each of the mixers M_1 - M_N may be input to one of transconductances 202₁-202_N. The outputs of the transconductances 202₁-202_N may be combined by the harmonic recombination module 306A to generate a pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals corresponding to a voltage at node 205.

The baseband signal output by each of the mixers M_{N+1} - M_{2N} may be input to one of the TIAs 206₁-206_N. The output

of the TIA's 206₁-206_N may be combined by the harmonic recombination module 306B to generate a pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals corresponding to the current at node 205.

The summer 308 may combine the pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals output by the module 306A and the pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals from module 306B to generate a single pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals. The output of summer 308 may be processed by baseband processing module 106 to recover information in the received signal.

FIG. 6A is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary receiver front end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. 6A, the wireless communication device 104 may comprise a plurality of transconductances 602₁-602_N and 604₁-604_N, a plurality of mixers M_1 - M_{2N} , a plurality of TIAs 206₁-206_{2N}, feedback circuits 302₁-302_{2N} and 304₁-304_{2N}, harmonic recombination modules 306A and 306B, and summer 308, where N may be any integer greater than or equal to 1. In various embodiments of the invention, N may be equal to, for example, 2, 4, or 8.

The transconductances 602₁-602_N and 604₁-604_N may each be the same as the transconductance 202 described with respect to FIG. 2. In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the architecture of each of the transconductances 602₁-602_N may be as shown in FIG. 6B, and the architecture of each of the transconductances 604₁-604_N may be as shown in FIG. 6C.

Each of the TIAs 206₁-206_{2N} may be the same as the TIAs 206₁ and 206₂ described above with respect to FIG. 2. Each of the feedback circuits 302₁-302_{2N} and 304₁-304_{2N} may be as described above with respect to FIG. 4. Each of the modules 306A and 306B may be as described above with respect to FIG. 3A. The summer 308 may be as described above with respect to FIG. 3A.

In operation, a signal may be received via the antenna 102 and conveyed to the node 205 via a signal trace and/or wire represented as an inductance L_{wire} . The received signal at node 205 may be conveyed to each of the transconductances 602₁-602_N and 604₁-604_N. The output of each of the transconductances 602₁-602_N and 604₁-604_N may be input to a corresponding one of the mixers M_1 - M_{2N} . Each of the mixers M_1 - M_{2N} may mix the signal from the corresponding one of the transconductances 602₁-602_N and 604₁-604_N with one of LO signals $LO_{\Phi 1}$ - $LO_{\Phi 2N}$ to generate a corresponding baseband signal. The baseband signal output by each of the mixers M_1 - M_{2N} may be input to one of TIAs 206₁-206_{2N}. The outputs of the TIAs 206₁-206_N may be combined by the harmonic recombination module 306A to generate a pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals corresponding to a voltage at node 205. The outputs of the TIAs 206_{N+1}-206_{2N} may be combined by the harmonic recombination module 306B to generate a pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals corresponding to a current at node 205.

The summer 308 may combine the pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals output by the module 306A and the pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals from module 306B to generate a single pair of phase-quadrature baseband signals. The output of summer 308 may be processed by baseband processing module 106 to recover information in the received signal.

FIG. 7 is a flow chart illustrating exemplary operation of a low-noise, highly-linear receiver front-end, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Referring to FIG. 7, the exemplary steps may begin with step 702, when a signal received via the antenna 102 is conveyed to the front-end 104. In step 704, the received signal may be processed to generate

a baseband signal corresponding to a voltage at the node **205** of the front-end **104**. In step **706**, the received signal may be processed to generate a baseband signal corresponding to current at the node **205** of the front-end. Steps **704** and step **706** may occur concurrently. The signal generated in step **704** may be combined with the signal generated in step **706** resulting in an amplified, low-noise baseband signal. In step **710**, the amplified, low-noise baseband signal generated in step **708** may be processed to recover information contained in the received signal.

Various aspects of a method and system for a low-noise, highly-linear receiver front-end are provided. In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, a received signal may be processed via one or more transconductances **202**, one or more TIAs **206**, and one or more mixers **M** to generate a first baseband signal corresponding to a voltage at a node **205** of the receiver **100**, and a second baseband signal corresponding to a current at node **205** of the receiver **100**. The first signal and the second signal may be processed to recover information from the received signal. The first signal may be generated via a first one or more signal paths of the receiver **100** and the second signal may be generated via a second one or more signal paths of the receiver **100**.

The first signal path may comprise the one or more transconductances **202**, at least a portion of the one or more mixers **M**, and at least a portion of the one or more TIAs **206**. The second signal path may comprise at least a portion of the one or more mixers **M** and at least a portion of the one or more TIAs **206**. The received signal at the node **205** may be input to the one or more transconductances **202**. An output of the one or more transconductances **202** may be input to the portion of the one or more mixers **M** of the first signal path. An output of each of the portion of the one or more mixers **M** of the first signal path may be input to the portion of the one or more TIAs **206** of the first signal path. The received signal at the node **205** may be input to the portion of the one or more mixers **M** of the second signal path. An output of each of the portion of the one or more mixers **M** of the second signal path may be input to the portion of the one or more TIAs **206** of the second signal path.

The first signal path may comprise a first capacitor **205**, at least a portion of the one or more mixers **M** and the one or more transconductances **202**. The second signal path may comprise a second capacitor **504**, at least a portion of the one or more mixers **M**, and the one or more TIAs **206**. The received signal at the node **205** may be coupled to a first terminal of the first capacitor **502**. A second terminal of the first capacitor **502** may be coupled to an input of the portion of the one or more mixers **M** of the first signal path. An output of each of the portion of the one or more mixers **M** of the first signal path may be input to the one or more transconductances **202**. The received signal at the node may be coupled to a first terminal of the second capacitor **504**. A second terminal of the second capacitor **504** may be coupled to an input of the portion of the one or more mixers **M** of the second signal path. An output of each of the portion of the one or more mixers **M** of the second signal path may be input to the one or more TIAs **206**.

The first signal path may comprise a first portion of the one or more transconductances, transconductances **602**, for example, a first portion of the one of the one or more mixers **M**, and a first portion of the one or more TIAs **206**. The second signal path may comprise a second portion of the one or more transconductances, transconductances **604**, for example, a second portion of the one or more mixers **M**, and a second portion of the one or more TIAs **206**. An architecture of the first portion of the one or more transconductances may be

different than an architecture of the second portion of the one or more transconductances. The received signal at the node **205** may be input to each of the one or more transconductances **602** and **604**. An output of each of the transconductances **602** and **604** may be input to one of the one or more mixers **M**. An output of each of the one or more mixers **M** may be input to one of the one or more TIAs **206**.

The received signal at the node **205** may be input to the one or more mixers **M**. An output of each of the one or more mixers **M** may be input to the one or more transconductances **202**. An output of each of the one or more mixers **M** may be input to a first portion of the one or more TIAs, such as TIAs **406** of FIG. **4**. An output of each of the transconductances may be input to a second portion of the one or more TIAs, such as TIAs **206** of FIG. **4**.

Other embodiments of the invention may provide a non-transitory computer readable medium and/or storage medium, and/or a non-transitory machine readable medium and/or storage medium, having stored thereon, a machine code and/or a computer program having at least one code section executable by a machine and/or a computer, thereby causing the machine and/or computer to perform the steps as described herein for a low-noise, highly-linear receiver front-end.

Accordingly, the present invention may be realized in hardware, software, or a combination of hardware and software. The present invention may be realized in a centralized fashion in at least one computer system, or in a distributed fashion where different elements are spread across several interconnected computer systems. Any kind of computer system or other apparatus adapted for carrying out the methods described herein is suited. A typical combination of hardware and software may be a general-purpose computer system with a computer program that, when being loaded and executed, controls the computer system such that it carries out the methods described herein.

The present invention may also be embedded in a computer program product, which comprises all the features enabling the implementation of the methods described herein, and which when loaded in a computer system is able to carry out these methods. Computer program in the present context means any expression, in any language, code or notation, of a set of instructions intended to cause a system having an information processing capability to perform a particular function either directly or after either or both of the following: a) conversion to another language, code or notation; b) reproduction in a different material form.

While the present invention has been described with reference to certain embodiments, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted without departing from the scope of the present invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the teachings of the present invention without departing from its scope. Therefore, it is intended that the present invention not be limited to the particular embodiment disclosed, but that the present invention will include all embodiments falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

in a receiver comprising one or more transconductances, one or more transimpedance amplifiers, and one or more mixers,

processing a received signal via said one or more transconductances, said one or more transimpedance amplifiers, and said one or more mixers to generate:

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a first baseband signal corresponding to a voltage at a node of said receiver; and
 a second baseband signal corresponding to a current at said node of said receiver; and
 processing, in said receiver, said first signal and said second signal to recover information from said received signal.

2. The method according to claim 1, comprising generating said first signal via a first signal path of said receiver and generating said second signal via a second signal path of said receiver, wherein:

said one or more mixers comprises a plurality of mixers;
 said one or more transimpedance amplifiers comprises a plurality of transimpedance amplifiers;
 said first signal path comprises said one or more transconductances, at least one of said plurality of mixers, and at least one of said plurality of transimpedance amplifiers; and
 said second signal path comprises at least one of said plurality of mixers and at least one of said plurality of transimpedance amplifiers.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein:

said received signal at said node is input to said one or more transconductances;
 an output of said one or more transconductances is input to said at least one mixer of said first signal path; and
 an output of each of said at least one mixer of said first signal path is input to said at least one transimpedance amplifier of said first signal path.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein:

said received signal at said node is input to said at least one mixer of said second signal path; and
 an output of each of said at least one mixer of said second signal path is input to said at least one transimpedance amplifier of said second signal path.

5. The method according to claim 1, comprising generating said first signal via a first signal path of said receiver and generating said second signal via a second signal path of said receiver, wherein:

said one or more mixers comprises a plurality of mixers;
 said first signal path comprises a first capacitor, at least one of said plurality of mixers and said one or more transconductances; and
 said second signal path comprises a second capacitor, at least one of said plurality of mixers and said one or more transimpedance amplifiers.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein:

said received signal at said node is coupled to a first terminal of said first capacitor;
 a second terminal of said first capacitor is coupled to an input of said at least one mixer of said first signal path;
 an output of each of said at least one mixer of said first signal path is input to said one or more transconductances.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein:

said received signal at said node is coupled to a first terminal of said second capacitor;
 a second terminal of said second capacitor is coupled to an input of said at least one mixer of said second signal path;
 an output of each of said at least one mixer of said second signal path is input to said one or more transimpedance amplifiers.

8. The method according to claim 1, comprising generating said first signal via a first signal path of said receiver and generating said second signal via a second signal path of said receiver, wherein:

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said one or more mixers comprises a plurality of mixers;
 said one or more transimpedance amplifiers comprises a plurality of transimpedance amplifiers;
 said one or more transconductances comprises a plurality of transconductances;

said first signal path comprises a first portion of said plurality of transconductances, at least one of said plurality of mixers, and at least one of said plurality of transimpedance amplifiers;

said second signal path comprises a second portion of said plurality of transconductances, at least one of said plurality of mixers, and at least one of said plurality of transimpedance amplifiers; and

an architecture of said first portion of said plurality of transconductances is different than an architecture of said second portion of said plurality of transconductances.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein:

said received signal at said node is input to each of said plurality of transconductances;
 an output of each one of said plurality of transconductances is input to one of said plurality of mixers;
 an output of each one of said plurality of mixers is input to one of said plurality of transimpedance amplifiers.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein:

said one or more transimpedance amplifiers comprises a plurality of transimpedance amplifiers;
 said received signal at said node is input to said one or more mixers;

an output of each of said one or more mixers is input to said one or more transconductances;
 an output of each of said one or more mixers is input to a first portion of said plurality of transimpedance amplifiers; and

an output of each of said transconductances is input to a second portion of said plurality of transimpedance amplifiers.

11. A system, comprising:

one or more circuits for use in a receiver, said one or more circuits comprising one or more transconductances, one or more transimpedance amplifiers, and one or more mixers, and said one or more circuits being operable to:

process a received signal via said one or more transconductances, said one or more transimpedance amplifiers, and said one or more mixers to generate:
 a first baseband signal corresponding to a voltage at a node of said receiver; and
 a second baseband signal corresponding to a current at said node of said receiver; and
 process, in said receiver, said first signal and said second signal to recover information from said received signal.

12. The system according to claim 11, wherein said one or more circuits are operable to generate said first signal via a first signal path of said receiver and generate said second signal via a second signal path of said receiver, wherein:

said one or more mixers comprises a plurality of mixers;
 said one or more transimpedance amplifiers comprises a plurality of transimpedance amplifiers;
 said first signal path comprises said one or more transconductances, at least one of said plurality of mixers, and at least one of said plurality of transimpedance amplifiers; and

said second signal path comprises at least one of said plurality of mixers and at least one of said plurality of transimpedance amplifiers.

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13. The system according to claim 12, wherein:
said received signal at said node is input to said one or more
transconductances;

an output of said one or more transconductances is input to
said at least one mixer of said first signal path; and

an output of each of said at least one mixer of said first
signal path is input to said at least one transimpedance
amplifier of said first signal path.

14. The system according to claim 12, wherein:
said received signal at said node is input to said at least one
mixer of said second signal path; and

an output of each of said at least one mixer of said second
signal path is input to said at least one transimpedance
amplifier of said second signal path.

15. The system according to claim 11, wherein:
said one or more circuits are operable to generate said first
signal via a first signal path of said receiver and generate
said second signal via a second signal path of said
receiver;

said one or more mixers comprises a plurality of mixers;
said first signal path comprises a first capacitor, at least one
of said plurality of mixers and said one or more transcon-
ductances; and

said second signal path comprises a second capacitor, at
least one of said plurality of mixers and said one or more
transimpedance amplifiers.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein:
said received signal at said node is coupled to a first termi-
nal of said first capacitor;

a second terminal of said first capacitor is coupled to an
input of said at least one mixer of said first signal path;
an output of each of said at least one mixer of said first
signal path is input to said one or more transconduc-
tances.

17. The system according to claim 15, wherein:
said received signal at said node is coupled to a first termi-
nal of said second capacitor;

a second terminal of said second capacitor is coupled to an
input of said at least one mixer of said second signal
path;

an output of each of said at least one mixer of said second
signal path is input to said one or more transimpedance
amplifiers.

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18. The system according to claim 11, wherein:
said one or more circuits are operable to generate said first
signal via a first signal path of said receiver and generate
said second signal via a second signal path of said
receiver;

said one or more mixers comprises a plurality of mixers;
said one or more transimpedance amplifiers comprises a
plurality of transimpedance amplifiers;

said one or more transconductances comprises a plurality
of transconductances;

said first signal path comprises a first portion of said plu-
rality of transconductances, at least one of said plurality
of mixers, and at least one of said plurality of transim-
pedance amplifiers;

said second signal path comprises a second portion of said
plurality of transconductances, at least one of said plu-
rality of mixers, and at least one of said plurality of
transimpedance amplifiers; and

an architecture of said first portion of said plurality of
transconductances is different than an architecture of
said second portion of said plurality of transconduc-
tances.

19. The system according to claim 18, wherein:
said received signal at said node is input to each of said
plurality of transconductances;

an output of each of said transconductances is input to one
of said plurality of mixers; and

an output of each of said one or more mixers is input to one
of said plurality of transimpedance amplifiers.

20. The system according to claim 11, wherein:
said one or more transimpedance amplifiers comprises a
plurality of transimpedance amplifiers;

said received signal at said node is input to said one or more
mixers;

an output of each of said one or more mixers is input to said
one or more transconductances;

an output of each of said one or more mixers is input to a
first portion of said plurality of transimpedance ampli-
fiers; and

an output of each of said transconductances is input to a
second portion of said plurality of transimpedance
amplifiers.

* * * * *